

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-32 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, a method for providing copies of data comprising "pairing the first and second storage devices", "adding the pair, by information other than first device identifiers, to a copy group already containing another storage device pair", and "cross-referencing the copy group identifier and the first device identifiers of the pair". Prior art of record do not teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the aforementioned limitation, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitation. Examiner notes that applicant's arguments are persuasive regarding the above limitations. Examiner further notes that applicant's arguments are persuasive regarding the 101 rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT SUN whose telephone number is (571)272-2675. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu, 10:00am-8pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Tariq Hafiz/  
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